cluded in the panel for allotment in 1981 and how many of them have since been allotted accommodation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. About 480 letters from MPs Councillors/ MLAs etc. were received during 1984 regarding allotment of quarters to employees of P&T from P&T pool, New Delhi. Some of them were in respect of SC/ST employees. It is not possible to furnish the exact number of recommendations for allotment of Type-I accomodation to SC/ ST employees since in many of the cases, the recommending M.Ps. or M.L.As. had not mentioned whether the employees belonged to SC/ST or general category.

(c) The quarters are allotted to the eligible employees in their turn according to their respective dates of entry in government service. However, Minister-in-Charge had been vested with discretionery Power to grant allotment on over-riding priority basis in exceptional and very deserving cases. All these cases were examined on merit and as per existing rules and thereafter suitable reply was also given to MPs/MLAs. In a few cases, orders for allotment of quarters on out-of-turn/over-riding priority basis were also issued. In the case of SC|ST employees, the fact that they belonged to SC/ST was also given due consideration.

(d) In 1981, there were 148 SC and 39 ST employees in the waiting list for allotment of quarters. Out of them 29 SC/ST employees have since been allotted quarters.

Building for Telephone Exchange in Rampur

1747. SHRI HASHIM RAZA ABIDI ALLAHABADI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether land has been acquired in Rampur-U.P. for the construction of a building for telephone exchange.

(b) if so, when and what is the area of the land acquired;

(c) whether telephone exchange building has been constructed on this land;

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor; and

(e) by when a building for housing the telephone exchange is likely to be constructed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A plot of land measuring 5.01 acre has been acquired in June, 1984.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) The construction of this building is likely to start during 1987-88 subject to availability of resources.

Replacement of obsolete equipment of Telephone Exchange, Rampur

1748. SHRI HASHIM RAZA ABIDI ALLAHABADI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that telephone exchange at Rampur, U.P. has obsolete equipment which has not been replaced since its installation at the time when it was an Indian State ruled by a Nawab, if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there is no air-conditioning for the telephone equipment; if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to provide the latest telephone facilities to Rampur?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) The oldest equipment available in automatic exchange (MAX-II) Rampur was installed in July, 1963. The equipment to replace the existing exchange is proposed to be allotted during 7th Five-Year Plan.

(b) No Sir, the telephone exchange has been provided with window-type airconditioners.

(c) Indian Crossbar type exchange equipment is proposed to be allotted during 1987-88 to replace the existing exchange equipment.

Electronic Telephone Exchanges

1749. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of electronic telephone exchanges opened so far in the country;

(b) what is the number of such exchanges functioning, State-wise; and

(c) what are the criteria for setting up of the electronic exchanges and how many such exchanges are likely to be opened during the next year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) The number of electronic telephone exchanges opened so far in the country is 26.

(b)

State	No. of exchanges functioning
1	2
Gujarat	2
Haryana	2
Maharashtra	4
Delhi	6
West Bengal	1
Tamil Nadu	2
Uttar Pradesh	5
Andhra	1
Manipur	1
Assam	1
Kerala	1
	26

(c) In view of limited availability of electronic equipments, the present criteria to allot electronic equipments is as follows:

(i) Metropolitan cities.

(ii) Major telephone systems.

(iii) Towns where electronic trunk automatic exchanges have been sanctioned.

(iv) Other towns.

Fifteen new exchanges are likely to be opened in 1985-86.

Sarin Committee's suggestion

1750. SHRI JERLIE E. TARIANG: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 218 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 6th August, 1984 and state how far the Sixth Five Year Plan targets regarding the setting up of Telephone Exchanges and production of telephone instruments have been achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): With reference to earlier reply, updated information is furnished in the annexure.